

## ALICE AND DREYFUS.

Lewis Carroll's Unconscious Prophecy of the Great Trial.

New York Tribune: Some persons have always maintained that "The Hunting of the Shark" is an allegorical poem, setting forth, in a fashion which only pretends to be whimsical, the sorrows, the struggles, the triumphs, and the heart-breaking disappointments of human life.

But it now becomes clear that a certain portion of one of Mr. Carroll's books, namely, "Alice's Adventures in Wonderland," is more than allegorical or mystic or philosophic—that it is prophetic. This portion is the trial scene, and nobody who knows a prophecy when he sees one can possibly read it without noting how it portends the trial which at this moment holds, more than any other, the astonished attention of the civilized world. "Here is a bit of the text:

"The twelve jurors were all writing very busily on slates. 'What are you doing?' Alice whispered to the Gryphon. 'They can't have anything to put down yet before the trial's begun.'"

Oh, simple Anglo-Saxon mind, that supposed that the men who are to judge their fellow can have nothing to put down before the trial is begun. "They order this matter better in France!"

"Herald, read the accusation," said the king.

On this the White Rabbit blew three blasts on the trumpet and then unrolled the parchment scroll, and read as follows:

"The Queen of Hearts she made some tarts,

All on a summer day,

The Knave of Hearts, he stole those tarts,

And took them quite away!"

"Consider your verdict," the King said to the jury.

"Not yet, not yet!" the Rabbit hastily interrupted. "There's a great deal to come before that!"

The president of the court, being a blunt, military man, sees no reason why any formality should be observed when the verdict is a foregone conclusion, but even in France the lawyers will drag their money out to make a pretense of earning their money, so there has to be a long trial.

The first witness was the Hatter. He came in with a teacup in one hand and a piece of bread and butter in the other. "I beg pardon, your majesty," he began, "for bringing these in; but I hadn't quite finished my tea when I was sent for."

"You ought to have finished," said the King. "When did you begin?"

The Hatter looked at the March Hare, who had followed him into the court, arm in arm with the Dormouse. "Fourteenth of March, I think it was," he said.

"Fifteenth," said the March Hare.

"Sixteenth," said the Dormouse.

The Hatter was obviously a military man, and he was shy about giving his testimony without that appealing glance for sympathy and encouragement toward the line of his friends, which is described in the papers nearly every day.

"Write that down," the King said to the jury, and the jury eagerly wrote down all three dates on their slates.

"Now, then," said the King, "it is just what Mr. Bertillon would have done if he had been present? It is enough to prove anybody in France guilty of anything."

"I'm a poor man, your majesty," the Hatter began in a trembling voice, "and I hadn't just begun my tea—not above a week or so—and what with the bread and butter getting so thin—and the twinkling of the eye—"

"The twinkling of what?" said the King.

"I began with the tea," the Hatter replied.

"Of course, twinkling begins with a T," said the King sharply. "Do you take me for a dunce? Go on!"

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## The Easy Food Easy to Buy, Easy to Cook, Easy to Eat, Easy to Digest. Quaker Oats At all grocers in 2-lb. pails only

prove I did: there's no name signed at the end."

"If you didn't sign it," said the King, "that only means the matter worse. You must have meant some mischief, or else you'd have signed your name like an honest man."

What need is there of comment? If you find anything in an invitation, an acceptance, a letter, a laundry list—written in the prisoner's hand, it proves his guilt. If it is not in his hand the proof is all the more conclusive.

## THE ALTERED ASPECT

Of the Transvaal Affair Continues to be a Mystery.

NEW YORK, Sept. 6.—A dispatch to the Tribune from London says: The altered aspect of the Transvaal affair continues to be a mystery too deep to be probed by anybody outside of the chief secretary's room in the colonial office. President Kruger has suddenly changed his ground. He had been refusing to grant a joint inquiry into the precise effect of the proposed political changes, but had offered a five years' franchise and increased representation under the condition that the suzerainty should be abandoned. He has now withdrawn that offer, and reverting to his original scheme, has accepted the suggestion for a conference of some kind. The facts are in dispute, but this seems to be a close approach to the truth. Why has Kruger changed ground so suddenly? That is the difficult question to answer. His new attitude towards the lawyers will drag their money out to make a pretense of earning their money, so there has to be a long trial.

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